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ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 INL-00 DODE-00 WHA-00 DS-00
UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 LAB-01 VCE-00 AC-01 NSAE-00
PER-00 ACE-00 IRM-00 TEST-00 EPAE-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02
NFAT-00 SAS-00 /004W

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R 132113Z AUG 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7189
INFO NSC WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 002405

NSC FOR SALCEDO, AMB. MAISTO
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
INR FOR FERNANDEZ

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: AUGUST 13, 2002

SUMMARY

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1. THE DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE ACCUSED PRESIDENT
CHAVEZ OF PRESSURING THE TSJ IN VIOLATION OF THE
CONSTITUTION AND MAY BRING ITS ACCUSATION TO INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS. AS A RESULT OF THE DEATH OF A GALICIAN
INJURED ON APRIL 11, THE SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
WILL BRING A PENAL ACTION ON CHAVEZ TO THE SPANISH NATIONAL
ROYAL AUDIENCE. PDVSA HAS MADE NO OFFICIAL SHIPMENTS TO
CUBA SINCE APRIL 11. AMBASSADOR SHAPIRO MET WITH NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT RAFAEL SIMON JIMENEZ ON
AUGUST 12 TO DISCUSS THE POLITICAL CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

OPPOSITION ON "PERMANENT ALERT"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2005 200400109

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2. THE CONGLOMERATION OF CIVIC-POLITICAL GROUPS KNOWN AS THE DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CD) MET ON MONDAY AT THE SITE OF THE VENEZUELAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS (CTV) TO RESPOND TO PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE AND HIS SUPPORTERS WILL NOT TOLERATE A TSJ RULING DENYING THAT THERE WAS A COUP. THEIR RESOLUTION ACCUSED THE GOV OF PRESSURING THE TSJ AND DENOUNCED ITS ACTIONS AS "UNACCEPTABLE," "BRUTAL," AND "A DECLARATION OF WAR." THE CD DECLARED ITSELF TO BE ON "PERMANENT ALERT."

3. AS SPOKESMAN, PRESIDENT CARLOS ORTEGA OF CTV SAID THAT CHAVEZ IS VIOLATING THE CONSTITUTION BY INTERFERING WITH THE AUTONOMY OF THE TSJ, AND ANNOUNCED THAT AN APPEAL TO THE OAS OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL PARTIES MAY BE NECESSARY. CARLOS HERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT OF FEDECAMARAS, INTERPRETED CHAVEZ'S SPEECH AS A CALL TO VIOLENCE, AND ASKED GOV

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SUPPORTERS TO ASK THEMSELVES IF THEY ARE REALLY BETTER OFF THAN THEY WERE THREE YEARS AGO. ORTEGA ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A MARCH FOR JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE METROPOLITAN POLICE NEXT SATURDAY AND SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS ABOUT AN EVENTUAL STRIKE ARE IN PROGRESS.

SPANISH PARLIAMENTARIAN SEEKS PENAL ACTION ON CHAVEZ

4. YESTERDAY, AUGUST 12, A GALICIAN VICTIM OF THE APRIL 11 SHOOTINGS, JOSE ANTONIO GAMALLO, DIED. SPANISH PARLIAMENTARIAN EDUARDO TAMAYO OF THE SPANISH SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PSOE) ANNOUNCED THAT HIS PARTY WILL PROPOSE A PENAL ACTION AGAINST PRESIDENT CHAVEZ FOR GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BRINGING THE LAWYERS OF APRIL 11 VICTIMS BEFORE THE SPANISH NATIONAL ROYAL AUDIENCE. IF PASSED, THE PENAL ACTION WOULD PREVENT CHAVEZ FROM STEPPING ON SPANISH SOIL EVER AGAIN.

NO OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN OIL SHIPMENTS TO CUBA SINCE APRIL 11

5. PDVSA HAS MADE NO OFFICIAL SHIPMENTS TO CUBA SINCE APRIL 11. AT PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S DIRECT ORDER, SHIPMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO RESUME IN SEPTEMBER. WHILE WE EXPECT SHIPMENTS TO RESUME, WE ALSO BELIEVE PDVSA RANK AND FILE WILL CONTINUE TO DRAG THEIR HEELS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY. CUBA HAS CONTINUED TO BUY VENEZUELAN OIL ON THE COMMERCIAL MARKET

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WHERE THEY MUST PAY UP FRONT. THE RESISTANCE WITHIN PDVSA
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IS ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT PRESIDENT
CHAVEZ IS FACING.

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VICE-PRESIDENT

6. YESTERDAY, AUGUST 12, THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH FIRST
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RAFAEL SIMON
JIMENEZ. SIMON JIMENEZ, A MEMBER OF THE MAS PARTY,
EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION THAT THE OPPOSITION STILL REFUSES TO
NEGOTIATE EVEN THOUGH THE GOV HAS AGREED TO USE THE OAS AS
A MEDIATOR. (NOTE: THE OPPOSITION'S DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING
COMMITTEE SENT IN ITS LETTERS OF INVITATION TO OAS, UNDP
AND THE CARTER CENTER ON AUGUST 12.) HE BELIEVES ALL THE
NECESSARY CONDITIONS TO GET OUT OF THIS CRISIS ARE PRESENT
EXCEPT FOR THE OPPOSITION'S WILLINGNESS TO DIALOGUE, AND IN
THE MEANTIME, VENEZUELA IS DANGEROUSLY DETERIORATING.

7. SIMON JIMENEZ DOES NOT BELIEVE A SUCCESSFUL COUP CAN
OCCUR AT THE PRESENT TIME, AND HE BELIEVES ONLY A SMALL
MINORITY OF FANATICS ARE INTERESTED IN USING VIOLENCE TO

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CAUSE CHAOS. HIS MESSAGE TO THE USG WAS A CALL FOR MORE
AID. CONCERNING THE TSJ DECISION, HE STATED THAT ALL
EXTERNAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE OAS, RECOGNIZE THAT THERE
WAS A COUP IN VENEZUELA, AND THAT IF THE TSJ FAILS TO
RECOGNIZE THAT, THEN DEMOCRACY IS LACKING HERE.

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SHAPIRO

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